

SOUL CITY ONE: MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

Episode One: diarrhoea and vomiting

The series begins in the home of Nonceba and Duma. They and their baby son, Bongani are asleep. Nonceba is having a nightmare about a sick baby. She wakes up when she hears Bongani's cry, and is relieved it was only a bad dream.

We then see Ali- the porter from the clinic - and his wife Thandi outside their home. Ali wants vetkoek, pap and stew for lunch but Thandi says she will prepare an apple and a sandwich instead because Ali is on a diet! Ali shaves as his son Thebogo goes off to school.

The next day, Nonceba's Baby is still sick with diarrhoea (runny tummy). Her husband Duma says he does not want to take the baby to the doctor at the clinic, as he does not trust the clinic. Nonceba is worried, but she leaves the baby with Duma while she goes to work. At work (she works at the clothing factory with Matlakala), Nonceba talks to her friend Matlakala about her sick baby. She says that she has given up breast-feeding Bongani because of her work. Matlakala tells Nonceba that they need a creche at work, and should also be allowed to breast-feed during work hours. She suggests they work together to try and get these.

At the Masakhane clinic in Soul City, Dr Lerato Molefe explains to a mother the importance of breast-feeding. She tells her that it keeps the baby strong, and that children should be breast-fed until they are at least 6 months old, but ideally, up to 2 years of age. In another cubicle, Dr Budlender is scolding a mother who brought a very dehydrate child to the clinic. He tells her that she must give her child water as soon as the diarrhoea starts, as this will replace the liquid lost during the severe diarrhoea.

Back in Soul City, Thandi goes to check on Duma and Bongani. Bongani's eyes and fontanelle have sunken in, and he looks very dry. Thandi wants to give Bongani some water but Duma won't let her. He says the baby is fine.

In the next scene, we are introduced to Dr Leroy Washington. He's from overseas, and is using the clinic as a base for his "Fifty Clinics Project". Leroy is smooth and charming, and Dr Ian Robertson tells Ali that he doesn't trust him one bit.

When Nonceba arrives home after work, she can see that Bongani is worse. She defies her husband, and makes a dash through the dark township to take him to the clinic. By the time she gets there it is too late. The baby has lost too much fluid and he dies in the doctor's arms...

Episode Two

Nonceba's child funeral. Duma blames Nonceba for their son's death. He says that the clinic kills people. After the funeral, Duma starts to behave very badly. He gets drunk and beats Nonceba up. He still can't come to terms with Bongani's death. At the clothing factory, Nonceba's boss, Ntutulwana threatens to fire Nonceba if she does not report back for work very soon.

Ali and Thandi try to help Nonceba. Ali suggests that Nonceba join Jake's drama group and do a play about diarrhoea in order to make the rest of the community aware of the dangers of diarrhoea and dehydration.

Episode 3

Nonceba has joined Jake's Drama Group, to try and make other mothers aware of the dangers of diarrhoea. The main message of the play they will do is to give the child water as soon as the diarrhoea starts, and to continue to give water until it stops. At the end of the play, Thandi also suggests that the civic organisation should try and teach the community about clean living environments in order to prevent unnecessary illness like diarrhoea.

By this time, Nonceba realises that she's pregnant again, and her friend Matlakala takes her to the clinic. Matlakala tells her that it is safer to visit the clinic as soon as you realize you are pregnant, so that if there are any problems, they can be detected and monitored.

In the next scene we see Dr Molefe and her brother Tumi, who is staying with her. She is concerned about how much he drinks, and she tells him that

he is going to fail at technicon if he doesn't stop drinking and work harder at his studies.

At the clinic, Matlakala and Nonceba meet a woman who has pregnant and has high blood pressure. She faints, and nearly loses her baby. When Matlakala and Nonceba see her later, she tells them that she didn't know about the danger of high blood pressure, as this was her first visit to the clinic. Because of the clinic visit, Matlakala arrives at work late and Tutalwana, the boss, threatens to fire her. When Nonceba arrives late because of her clinic visit, he pays her a month's wages and tells her to leave.

Episode 4

At the clothing factory: Nonceba goes to Tutulwana to ask for her job back. He refuses.

Later, after Nonceba and Matlakala have spoken, Nonceba decides to go and look for her husband Duma. She leaves the city and goes to her grandmother's place in the country. Nonceba's aunt tells her that there has been a drought at the village, and that food has been difficult to get hold of. Nonceba asks her how she feeds her young child so well. Her aunt replies that a young child needs to be fed 5 to 6 small meals a day instead of three big ones like an adult. She tells Nonceba that she gives the child the same food as the family eats, which means that she does not have to spend more on food.

While Nonceba is in the rural area, she hears the community talking about the new clinics that have been built. There are some problems with these as the clinics are too far away, and when people need to immunise their children, there's no vaccine. This makes it difficult for villagers, as children need to be immunised 5 times in their first year of life.

Dr Lerato Molefe goes with Leroy (with whom she is now involved), to visit the village clinics to see if the people are happy. They are obviously not, and Lerato suggests that they go as a community to the local council to try and address their grievances. Later Leroy asks Lerato to leave Masakhane Clinic to join him in the Fifty Clinics project.

Episode 5

Matlakala tells Nonceba about her latest boyfriend. She hasn't been dating him for long, but she's slept with him already. Nonceba once warns Matlakala of the dangers of going from man to man.

A child is brought into the clinic with a high fever. The doctors diagnose measles and tell the carer to keep the child away from other children and give plenty to drink. They are afraid that this may be the start of a measles epidemic. These fears are confirmed when several other children are brought in with measles. Dr Budlender stresses that all children should be immunised.

The clinic and the community meet and decide to start a campaign to immunise children in the community. At the meeting, Ali's wife Thandi, suggests that the Soul City clinic start erecting immunization tents to get people to immunize their babies and young children. Ali goes out with a loudhailer to try and get people to bring their children.

The clinic staff are concerned that people have not responded to their efforts, and so Thandi decides to bring the women together, and to march to the clinic. After this, people become more aware of the dangers of not having children immunised, and they bring their children to the immunization tents.

EPISODE 6

The immunisation campaign is in full swing. The Soul City civic organisation decides to broadcast immunisation messages on the local radio. These messages tell parents and carers to bring their children to be immunised. They also tell them that children should be immunised five times in their first year of life.

In the following scenes, Thandi is busy with her laundry when she hears a sound from behind one of the shacks. She goes to check it out, and finds a little girl called Mbali sitting alone and crying. When Thandi asks her, Mbali doesn't want to say what the problem is.

Thandi tells Sister Bettina about Mbali and they decide to take Mbali to the clinic. Mbali is crying, depressed and very quiet. Dr Molefe examines her, only to find that she's been sexually abused.

EPISODE 7

Dr Molefe is talking to Sister Bettina about Mbali because her father came to complain about the nurse who examined Mbali without permission. Dr Budlender is also angry with Sister Bettina, saying that she has not behaved professionally, and besides, it is unlawful not to ask permission before examining a child.

While Sister Bettina is talking to Dr Budlender, she breaks down crying. She tells Dr Budlender that Mbali's case reminds her of her own childhood, when she was abused by her stepfather. It is for that reason that she didn't hesitate to bring Mbali to the clinic. She goes on to say that her stepfather abused her sexually for 4yrs and threatened to kill her if she told anyone. She kept quiet, and told only her teddy. She couldn't bear the thought of Mbali going through such emotional torture.

Sister Bettina, Thandi and the social worker go and see Mbali's mother. They tell her that Mbali's has been abused, but she doesn't want to believe it. She is afraid that her husband is the abuser. Sister Bettina tries to persuade Mbali to tell her who raped her but Mbali won't talk.

Ali overhears Leroy Washington talking on the phone to someone about getting cheap material for the clinics that he is building. He tells Ian about it.

In the next scene we see Jakes' drama group, who have decided to do a play about child abuse to try and tell children that they can say no and run away if they are afraid of an adult, or if an adult does something to them that they do not like.

Sister Bettina decides to give Mbali her old teddybear. She tells Mbali that the bear is a friend Mbali she can trust, and tell anything to. Mbali starts opening up to her "friend", and tells the bear that it was her Uncle Joshua who abused her. Sister Bettina overhears this and tells Mbali's mother that Joshua has been abusing their daughter. Mrs Ngidi says that she has long

suspected that something was wrong but was too scared to tell anyone.

EPISODE 8

Matlakala goes to see Nonceba and tells her that she has a boyfriend who belongs to a union. He told Matlakala that Nonceba was fired unfairly. According to the Labour Relations Act you need to get three written warnings first before you get dismissed. Ali and Sr Bettina are arguing about breast feeding 3 days after the child's birth because before then, the breastmilk is yellow and "dirty" and should be thrown away. Sr Bettina tells Ali the "dirty" milk is the healthiest and contains all the nutrients. It's called colostrum. Breastfeed from the first day of birth.

Nonceba and Matlakala go to Ntutulwana to ask for her (Nonceba) job back. She gets it back. Ian has found out about Leroy's plan. He tells Lerato but she won't believe him.

EPISODE 9

FACTORY - Matlakala tells Nonceba that her boyfriend suggests they join a union in order to get their rights such as maternity leave and time off for ante-natal clinic visits. Lerato has gone overseas with Leroy and Tumi is home alone. He drinks a lot and finds her sister's car keys. He goes out drunk and is involved in an accident. He gets jailed for drunken driving and luckily, Ian bails him out.

Ian decides to go out pictures of Leroy's "rip off" clinics while he's away so that he can get him arrested.

The **JAKE'S DRAMA GROUP** are doing a play on child nutrition. A child needs to eat 5 or 6 small meals instead of three big ones. Add oil or margarine or peanut butter onto the child's food. Sr Bettina goes to see how Mbali is doing and finds she's much better. Mrs Ngidi has even started a support group with other women to encourage people to break the silence!

EPISODE 10

Matlakala's at the tavern with Gorge - Sr Lizzie's husband. He invites her

over to his house telling her she's not married but stays with his sister and her child.

Lizzie's child is sick. He runs a high temperature and breathes fast. Lizzie told her that whatever a child runs a temperature that's high do not dress him up like the oden days - cool the child down with a towel and cold water instead. It appears that Lizzie's child has pneumonia. Tumi tells Dr Robertson that he has stopped drinking but Ian tells him it's not that easy. Ali offers him "AA" pamphlets to read and join but Tumi tells him he doesn't need help. Ali catches Tumi with a bottle of whisky. Tumi can now see it's tough to do it alone and decides to join "AA".

Lizzie arrives at home unexpectedly and finds George in bed with Matlakala. Ian is run-over by an unknown man. What a horrible "accident". He's in a coma.

EPISODE 11

Ian has woken up from the coma. Nonceba visits Duma at the mines and begs him to go back home with her but he won't. Lerato and Leroy are back from their overseas strip. Tumi overseas Leroy and his men talking about "finishing off" Ian and about the clinic deals.

Thandi has paraffin in a cooldrink bottle. Tsholo drinks it thinking it's cooldrink and she gets poisoned. Thandi's neighbour tells her she must give the child milk. Ali comes in at the right time and stops them. Never give a poised person anything to drink or induce vomiting. This will cause the poison to spread into the lungs which can cause great danger.

EPISODE 12

George has just come from the clinic with blood test results. He's H.I.V positive. He blames Lizzie for bringing the disease into his house. He forgets that he's the one that's been flirting with other women. At the clothing factory the workers agree on forming a union so that their rights can be addressed properly.

One of Leroy's "men goes to the hospital to try and kill Ian by injecting his drip. The nurse walks in just in time.

One of the children at Thandi's creche burns herself with porridge. Gogo puts colgate on the burn but Thandi tells her it is wrong. You are supposed to put on cold water - nothing else. Anything other than cold water can cause infection and cause a minor burn to become a septic one.

Nonceba is fired for "causing trouble" and the workers decide to go on strike. They want a decent maternity leave and a creche. Tumi tells Lerato about Leroy but she doesn't want to believe him.

Lizzie tells Dr Budlender she wants to have an H.I.V test. Sr Lizzie decides to go tell Matlakala that the man she slept with (George) is H.I.V positive. She tells Matlakala that even if she used a condom, she must go have the test just in case, Matlakala tells Nonceba the shocking news - she might be H.I.V positive. She will go for counselling first where the whole procedure will be thoughtly explained.

JAKES'S DRAMA GROUP do a play on families- how important it is to stay as one happy, supportive family. To Nonceba's greatest surprise Duma is present. Ian is released from hospital and catches Leroy trying to run away with the money. Everyone at the clinic knows the "real" Leroy. Nonceba gives birth to a baby girl.